

# Think Global

Act locally with the

World Development Movement

**Creating change, achieving justice**  
WDM Activist Gathering 2010

Keynote speaker:  
**Paul Mason**, BBC Newsnight's  
economics editor and author of  
'Meltdown: The end of the age of greed'

Plus **Sue Branford** on Latin American  
social movements and other talks and  
workshops on global justice issues

**10.30am – 6pm**  
**Saturday 19 June**  
St Mary's Conference Centre,  
Bramall Lane, Sheffield S2 4QZ  
**FREE event**



**World Development Movement**  
Justice for the world's poor

April 2010

**World Development Movement**  
Justice for the world's poor



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# Letter from network development officer

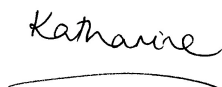
Dear Friends

Welcome to the April issue of Think Global. March has been a busy and successful month for campaigners, with the second half of Fairtrade Fortnight taking place and a climate debt public meeting in Scotland with Deborah speaking on a panel with Douglas Alexander, secretary of state for international development. Looking forward, there are various plans afoot for the RBS week of action in April and general election hustings events, which should keep us all busy!

There has also been a huge campaign victory for anyone involved in aviation campaigning; the proposed third runway at Heathrow has been declared untenable by High Court judge Lord Justice Carnwath who said "Common sense demanded that a policy established in 2003, before the important developments in climate change policy... should be subject to review in the light of these developments."

This is fantastic news not only for Heathrow campaigners, but for anyone campaigning against airport expansion around the country as it will send a strong message that the government cannot place economic arguments above climate change considerations. In addition, we are very pleased about another campaign success (announced in the Budget last week), the creation of a new Green Investment Bank.

All the best



Katharine Talbot  
Network development officer

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## News bites

### Climate justice

- Bangladesh and the UK government have reached an agreement on climate finance; the details are yet to be worked out, but Doha from Equity and Justice Working Group in Bangladesh believes that WDM's joint campaigning helped to shift DfID's position.

### Cleaning up the banks

- WDM Scotland will be welcoming First Nation activists from Canada whose communities are feeling the devastating impact of tar sands extraction; at WDM Scotland's annual campaigner convention on 17 April.
- The House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee called in representatives of the Treasury and UKFI – the arms-length government body that handles the taxpayers' 84% stake in RBS – to face questions from MPs. The Treasury admitted their only goal with RBS was to maximise its market value, insisting they could not give it instructions on how to invest.

# Action checklist

## Groups

### Climate change

Follow Kirsty's blog from the People's Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth Rights in Bolivia – [www.wdm.org.uk](http://www.wdm.org.uk)

### Cleaning up the banks

- Finalise plans for your stunt during the week of action
- If you haven't done so already please send us any completed 'bailed-out banks' action cards

### Groups in Scotland

Attend the campaigner convention in Stirling on Saturday 17 April

### General election

- Finalise how you can put pressure on your parliamentary candidates ahead of the general election; whether by organising your own hustings, attending an Ask the Climate Question event, or meeting with your candidates.
- Hold a 'watch party' to view the televised leaders debates (see full details below)

### At your next meeting

- Discuss campaign tactics (as per the discussion paper sent out in the March issue of Think Global)
- Work out who is going to look after your group's new website and contact Pontus (see more below)

## Activists

### Climate change

Follow Kirsty's blog from the People's Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth Rights in Bolivia – [www.wdm.org.uk](http://www.wdm.org.uk)

### Cleaning up the banks

If you haven't done so already please send us any completed 'bailed-out banks' action cards

### General election

Contact your parliamentary candidate to ask them one of our three key questions (if you do not have a copy of our general election lobbying toolkit you can download it from our website at [www.wdm.org.uk/general-election](http://www.wdm.org.uk/general-election) or contact us to order a copy)

# Campaign update: Climate justice

## Bangladesh climate fund update

Since the last update on the Bangladesh it seems that the UK government and Bangladesh has reached some kind of deal in terms of moving head with the Multi Donor Trust Fund. However, from what we understand, the details have not yet been worked out and so nothing is fully agreed.

According to a ministerial statement made in parliament, "the fund will be led by the government [of Bangladesh] with the World Bank providing technical back-stopping support and fiduciary management". Beyond that, the department for international development (DfID) have not been clear with us about where the process is at, what influence the World Bank will have over how the money is used, how (or if) consultation with local communities will be conducted, or what cut of the funds meant for Bangladesh the World Bank will take as administration fees in the process.

However, what is clear is that all the actions by WDM were heard loud and clear by DfID. Douglas Alexander's special advisor even called WDM ahead of our stunt, so the pressure we created has certainly caught the attention of decision makers. Further more, we've heard from our allies in Bangladesh that because of joint campaigning DfID's position changed and that they are now being told that the World Bank will only be involved in this fund for the first year or two. Doha from Equity and Justice Working Group in Bangladesh wrote to us a few days ago thanking WDM for its input *"I believe that the changes in the position of the DFID have happened only due to joint and parallel campaigning in the UK and Bangladesh. I'm very much pleased to pass my sincere regards and thanks to the UK people."*

The pressure created by WDM has not only shifted DfID's position, but has also demonstrated that these deals will be scrutinised from now on. WDM was even called by the Bangladeshi media to talk about what happened in the UK, so the impact of WDM's actions is reaching far beyond the UK. Yet

again, WDM groups played a significant role in helping make this happen.

We will let you know if and when any further detail emerges from DfID or from our allies at Justice and Equity Working Group in Bangladesh.

## People's Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth Rights in Bolivia

Since the failure of the Copenhagen climate talks, the Bolivian government has recognised the need to ensure space is made within the international climate negotiations for the voices of real people, especially those most affected by climate change, to be brought into the process. Their concept is to hold a people's summit nestled amongst the Andean mountaintops of Cochabamba, where people from across the world will gather to develop and put forward concrete proposals not only for where we go next as a movement, but also to create concrete suggestions that can be submitted to the UN process.

WDM climate justice campaigner Kirsty Wright will be going to Bolivia to attend the summit. As well as inputting into the climate debt work group, Kirsty will have the opportunity to learn more about how people in Bolivia will be affected by climate change. Bolivia is not only one of the poorest countries in Latin America but also one that will be most affected by climate change.

**For more information on the conference, please see <http://pwccc.wordpress.com/>**

**Kirsty will be blogging from Bolivia, so you will be able to follow the conference on the WDM website. Some of the key note speeches will be broadcast live. We will post information on [www.wdm.org.uk](http://www.wdm.org.uk) as it becomes available.**

## Climate debt

WDM Director Deborah Doane went head to head on climate debt with Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP, secretary of state for international development, at an event in his constituency of Paisley on 19 March. The event, entitled: 'A Fair Share: global poverty, climate change and Britain's climate debt' was organised jointly with the Church of Scotland and was attended by more than 50 people. Also on the panel was Ian Galloway, Convenor of the Church of Scotland's Church and Society Council and the event was chaired by James Picardo, Jubilee Scotland coordinator.

Ian Galloway spoke of the need to take personal and communal responsibility on climate change, on the negative coverage around climate change in the media recently, and the need to persuade people that it is in their self-interest to make the changes necessary to tackle climate change. Deborah argued strongly for the need for climate finance for poor countries that doesn't come from the current aid budget, that is grants not loans and that is administered not by the World Bank but by the UN. Douglas Alexander talked of the difficulties of international negotiations, and the need to build public support to deal with climate change so that when politicians make difficult decisions they know they have public backing.



## Hunterston update

You might remember that, last November we had a success in our coal campaign when DONG, a Danish company, pulled out of its investment for a new coal-fired power station at Hunterston, Ayrshire. Unfortunately, Peel, one of DONG's partners, have decided to go ahead with their power station plans despite losing this financial backing and put in a planning application to the Scottish Government in March. NGOs across Scotland, including WDM, reacted strongly to this, sending a joint letter to the Herald condemning it. At a debate in the Scottish Parliament last week, MSPs also showed their opposition to the development by voting against any new coal-fired power station at Hunterston. It is ultimately the SNP government who will be taking the final decision on whether or not to give the green light to the development, but they are being put under increasing pressure to turn it down.

## Campaign update: Clean up the banks

### RBS campaign goes to Westminster

With the campaign turning up the heat on the Royal Bank of Scotland's dirty investments, the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee called in representatives of the Treasury and UKFI – the arms-length government body that handles the taxpayers' 84% stake in the bank – to face questions from MPs.

The committee members were appalled by the Treasury's unconcerned attitude to the destruction wrought by RBS investments, becoming what Cheltenham MP Martin Horwood described as "the angriest select committee I've ever seen."

The Treasury admitted their only goal with RBS was to maximise its market value, insisting they could not give it instructions on how to invest.

But that excuse was sunk by their boss, Chancellor Alistair Darling, when he proudly announced in the Budget that RBS would be ordered to issue £94 billion in new business loans. Clearly, the Government knows it can intervene in RBS when it wants to, so WDM will keep up the pressure on blood oil investments.

Also in the Budget, a welcome campaign success: the creation of a dedicated Green Investment Bank to jump-start renewable energy and public transport projects. Although at £2 billion it is much smaller than we need, and dwarfed by the still-dirty RBS, it's a real victory for campaigners that will mean much more support for the green economy.

WDM continues to campaign for the money locked up in RBS to be made available to build a really effective Green Investment Bank.

## **Week of Action**

Our thanks to the many groups that will be taking the campaign to Royal Bank of Scotland branches during the week of action (24th April – 1st May). We'll also be making ourselves heard in Edinburgh during the bank's AGM, and in the City of London.

We'll be delivering "Bailed-out Banks: Check the Small Print" action cards during the week of action, so if you still have any completed cards, please send them to the office so we can take your messages to the Chancellor.

## **Judicial review**

WDM's legal challenge seemingly hit a brick wall a few weeks ago, when the Court of Appeal upheld the decision to deny permission for a judicial review over the Treasury's handling of RBS. The government's solicitors successfully argued that officials did not have to adopt a rigorous interpretation of the Treasury's own 'green book' guidance for scrutinising public spending. However the decision could prove a Pyrrhic victory for the government, potentially setting a precedent for all departments to adopt a lax approach to green book assessments, which

seems the legal equivalent of the Treasury cutting off its nose to spite its face! Nonetheless, our legal team is continuing to push the government for full disclosure over the extent to which officials considered RBS' track record of financing harmful companies and projects when deliberating the terms under which the bank entered the Asset Protection Scheme. We will continue to keep you updated on the legal track of the campaign, we're not done yet!

## **Cleaning up the banks in Scotland**

WDM Scotland will be preparing for the week of action on RBS with our annual campaigner convention, *Banking on our future: how the bailed-out banks are using our money to finance climate change and human rights abuses*. Our keynote speakers will be First Nation activists from Canada whose communities are feeling the devastating impact of tar sands extraction; financed by RBS. They'll be making the link between what they are suffering and the impacts of other unethical investments being made by RBS around the world. If you live in or near Scotland, please come along to this event on Saturday 17 April, 10.30 – 4pm in Stirling. It is a free event, but you need to register. For more details see [www.wdm.org.uk/sites/default/files/banking\\_on\\_our\\_future.pdf](http://www.wdm.org.uk/sites/default/files/banking_on_our_future.pdf)

Following on from that, WDM Scotland (in partnership with Amnesty, Friends of the Earth Scotland, SEAD and People & Planet) is organising activities that will shine a spotlight on the RBS AGM that takes place in Edinburgh on 28 April. As well as a photo stunt to get the issue into the media, we are also planning to host our own alternative AGM later that day to highlight the impact that RBS investment is having on indigenous people globally, as well as to make the case for the bailed-out bank to invest our money in low carbon projects that respect local communities. For more up to date information, keep checking the WDM Scotland website: [www.wdmScotland.org.uk](http://www.wdmScotland.org.uk)

# General election

## General election update

The run up to the general election will be dominating the headlines in April and if you haven't done so already, you may want to consider using this opportunity to let candidates know that their response to global justice issues will be vital for getting elected. If you get canvassed on the doorstep or if you get in touch with your candidates, you can use WDM's key election questions to help frame your discussion:

### Cleaning up the banks

The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) is 84 per cent publicly owned yet it continues to invest in projects that exacerbate poverty and damage the environment. If elected, will you ensure that RBS phases out its destructive investments and instead becomes a 'Royal Bank of Sustainability' to finance low carbon projects?

### Climate debt

Over two thirds of the UK's money for tackling climate change in developing countries is in the form of loans which will increase unjust financial debts. If elected, will you ensure that UK climate change money is given as grants not loans?

### Financial transaction tax

A financial transaction tax would limit the worst excesses of the financial system, whilst raising money for aid and tackling climate change. If elected, will you ensure that Britain actively pursues an international tax on financial transactions at the G20?

If you want to do more, for example, write a letter, meet your candidates or even attend or organise a hustings event please refer to the general election toolkit that was sent out in last month's Think Global. Further copies can be downloaded from our website [www.wdm.org.uk/general-election](http://www.wdm.org.uk/general-election) or you can call the office and we can send you a paper copy.

If you do get in touch with your parliamentary candidates or are organising a hustings event

email [sarah.reader@wdm.org.uk](mailto:sarah.reader@wdm.org.uk) or call Sarah at the office. Please take photos and send us a brief report if you attend or organise a hustings event. It is particularly useful for us to receive feedback on responses candidates make to our three key questions. The photos may be used by BOND on their new Vote Global website to demonstrate the breadth of activity around the country (see next section).

## BOND activities

BOND is the UK network for NGOs working in international development and they have launched their vote global website [www.vote-global.org.uk](http://www.vote-global.org.uk) which brings together the latest news and updates on the UK development sector's response to the general election. If you are on twitter you can use the *#vote-global* hashtag. If you are organising a hustings event you can post up your event details onto the site as a way to promote the event. If you do not have internet access, call Sarah on 020 7820 4900 and she will help you to do this.

## Ask the Climate Question

'Ask the climate question' is a coalition of environmental and development organisations who are trying to make climate a key election issue in 51 marginal constituencies (check Appendix 2 of the WDM general election toolkit if you are in one of these). We have 'Ask the climate question' stickers and door handle signs which are to remind people to mention climate as one of their top concerns when canvassed on the doorstep. If you live in one of these 51 marginals and would like any of these stickers or door handle signs to give out in your neighbourhood or community, you can order these from the WDM office. We also have some 'Ask the climate question' speech bubbles which you can use for photos if you are involved in any 'Ask the climate question' events.

## Televised leaders debates

Televised election debates between Gordon Brown, David Cameron and Nick Clegg will take place in the three consecutive weeks leading up to the general election. The following dates are tentative at the time of print, so do check your local TV listings nearer the time:

Thursday 15 April: ITV Election Debate  
– UK domestic affairs  
Chaired by Alistair Stewart in Manchester

Thursday 22 April: Sky News debate  
– International  
Chaired by Adam Boulton in Bristol.

Thursday 29 April: BBC Debate – Economy  
Chaired by David Dimbleby in Birmingham.

Given that the international debate will be hosted by Sky news you may want to find someone with the Sky news channel and organise 'watch parties' as a group to invite people to watch and discuss the issues.

## Vote Global in Scotland

WDM Scotland, working with a coalition of international development organisations including Christian Aid and NIDOS are also organising a national hustings on international development in Glasgow to which we have invited Douglas Alexander, as well as election candidates from each of the other major parties. The provisional date for this is 27 April, which should be confirmed soon. More information will be on our website shortly:  
[www.wdmScotland.org.uk](http://www.wdmScotland.org.uk)

## News & events

### 'The Yes Men Fix the World'

We still have copies of the film 'The Yes Men Fix the World' available for groups to borrow to hold film nights. This light-hearted yet provocative film is a great way to get new people involved in your group and spark discussions about campaign issues and the different ways in which campaigners can create impact. A recent screening in Norwich attracted over 60 people! The film is 90 minutes long. Contact Sarah to order a copy.

### Campaigner skills training

We have now run two training days and have had really positive feedback from group members attending. We have spaces left for the training days below so do get in touch with Sarah to book your free place. These workshops are designed for all levels of experience and feedback from previous full day sessions has shown that skills training has an immediate, positive impact on your group's activities. Full details below:

#### Lobbying training day // Manchester // 17 Apr

*The workshop will give you a chance to explore and practice the skills needed to be a great lobbyist.*  
When: Saturday 17 March: 10.30 to 4.30 approx.  
Where: Luther King House, Brighton Grove, Manchester M14 5JP  
Trainer: Kathryn Tulip from Seeds for Change

#### Media training day // Leeds // 24 April

*Engaging the media can seem daunting. Will I be misrepresented? Won't they just twist what I say? Engaging the media with confidence, a one day media relations workshop, will provide some answers and enable you to 'control' your message to reach your target audience..*  
When: Saturday 24 April, 10.30 to 4.30  
Where: The Bowery, 54 Otley Road, Headingley, Leeds, LS6 2AL  
Trainer: Joy Francis from Creative Collective

## Media & online campaign training day // Glasgow // 22 May

*Learn how to ensure you get really effective local press coverage, plus an insight into the world of online campaigning and how to make it work for your group.*

When: Saturday 22 May, 10.30 to 4.30

Where: Glasgow (venue tbc)

Trainer: Pontus Westerberg (WDM web officer) and Joy Francis (The Creative Collective)

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Activist Gathering and AGM: 19/20 June, Sheffield

As mentioned in the February issue of Think Global, we are in the midst of planning for our exciting activist gathering in Sheffield in June. An outline of the programme is below to give you an idea of what to expect. Plus we are delighted to confirm that our two guest speakers are Paul Mason, BBC Newsnight's economics editor and author of 'Meltdown: The end of the age of greed', and Sue Branford, an expert on Latin America who will give a talk on social movements.

### Saturday 19 June

10.30am – 6pm: A day of talks and workshops on global justice issues and practical campaigning skills; including a skill-share session specifically

## Groups

### Recent activities

Groups up and down the country were busy during Fairtrade Fortnight...

**Cambridge WDM** ran a fair-trade stall outside Arjuna Wholefoods on Saturday 6 March. As well as giving out the tea action cards to sign, the group encouraged people to sign their petition and plan to send these signatures to the Fairtrade Foundation to add to their campaign to

aimed at giving local groups the chance to share experiences and tips for effective campaigning. 12pm: Our AGM (with talk on WDM running concurrently for non-members)

7pm: 40th anniversary party, with a buffet, bar and live band

All events above will take place at St Mary's conference centre in Sheffield (less than 15 minutes walk from the train station).

### Sunday 20 June

Join us for a walk in the Peak District, led by Sheffield WDM (we'll be aiming to walk from mid morning to mid afternoon).

### Booking, travel and accommodation

You will find flyers enclosed with this issue (varying quantities depending on how close your group is to Sheffield!) We would be grateful if you could circulate these flyers to anyone you think would be interested in attending; we are aiming to bring in new WDM members at this event as well as appealing to our long-standing supporters.

You can also now book online at [www.wdm.org.uk/activistgathering](http://www.wdm.org.uk/activistgathering)

Please see the enclosed insert for various accommodation options.

Cheap train tickets to Sheffield will be released during the coming week; you're advised to book early to get the best deals!

get the 5 big tea companies to make their tea Fairtrade.

**Oxford WDM** held a successful stall at the Witney fairtrade market on 27 March and **Sheffield WDM** held a well attended event for Fairtrade Fortnight on the same day. **Derby WDM** held a stall at the Unitarian Fairtrade market.

**Reading WDM** held two tea tastings during the fortnight to raise awareness of the benefits of

Fairtrade. **St Albans & District WDM** held a similar 'Big Brew' event, with tea tastings on 27 March, as well as setting up a fairtrade display in their local library. **Welwyn & Hatfield WDM** were involved in a fair-trade stall at their local shopping centre.

**SE London WDM** held a public meeting called 'Beyond Fairtrade', panel members included Veronica Pasteur from the Fairtrade Foundation, Heidi from WDM and Albert Tucker, founder of Twin Trading.

On Saturday 27 February **Coventry WDM** joined forces with the local church to host a Fairtrade Tea Party. Cakes were baked by members of the local Women's Institute, Allesley Country Market Group as well as by friends...and as many of the ingredients as possible were Fairtrade. Even the roses on each table were fairly traded! A quiz and a short talk urging people to swap to fairtrade tea, ensured that everyone who came, went away reminded about the need for trade justice.



*Coventry Fairtrade tea party*

Other group activities outside Fairtrade Fortnight include **Leeds WDM** holding a well-attended screening of *The Yes Men Fix the World* on 24 March.

**Watford WDM** held a meeting on 11 March entitled 'Creating a climate for justice: lessons from Bolivia' with CAFOD's campaigns writer and materials co-ordinator.

## New groups

We are currently working on setting up new groups in Newcastle, Norwich and Harrow.

Several meetings have now been held in Norwich, including a very well attended screening of *The Yes Men Fix the World* at the University of East Anglia. We are planning on holding another meeting very soon to consolidate the group; watch this space!

We are also planning on showing *The Yes Men* film in Newcastle over the next month or so, Deborah will attend this screening, and we're hoping the event will bring in interested new audiences as well as appealing to WDM members and supporters in the area.

We've been aiming to fill the 'WDM group gap' in both these areas for some time and hope to give you more positive news in the next issue of *Think Global*.

## New group websites

Remember to contact Pontus with the information below to get your new group website off the ground:

1. Please choose one person within your group to be web contact
2. That person should email Pontus ([pontus.westerberg@wdm.org.uk](mailto:pontus.westerberg@wdm.org.uk)) when they are ready to start with the following info:
  - a) The name of the group as you want it to appear in the URL and on the website (eg, <http://groups.wdm.org.uk/oxford>)
  - b) The email address that you want associated with the site (eg, [wdmshffield@googlemail.com](mailto:wdmshffield@googlemail.com))
3. Pontus will set up the site and email you back when it's ready for you to add content, giving you full info about how to access the website, along with guidelines etc
4. You let Pontus know when you have created all the content and you want your new site to go live

- Pontus will update links on the main WDM website and set up a URL forwarding from your old website.

Pontus will be more than happy to give you a hand at any stage in the process above.

If you'd like a preview take a look at these two sites!

<http://groups.wdm.org.uk/glasgow/>  
<http://groups.wdm.org.uk/oxford/>

## Campaign tactics

As you know we are currently running a consultation with our network about WDM's

campaign tactics (see the discussion document circulated with the last issue of Think Global).

If you feel you can make the time in your meetings, it would be very valuable to have your feedback on the variety of campaign tactics outlined in the discussion paper.

Please do contact Katharine about a facilitator for this discussion; there are several staff, council and group members who have been part of a working group on this issue and would be more than happy to visit your group and help you unpick these issues.

We would ideally like all feedback from groups by the end of May, or sooner if possible.

## Diary dates

17 April	Lobbying training day, Manchester
17 April	WDM Scotland campaigner convention, Stirling
24 April	Media training day, Leeds
26 April – 2 May	RBS week of action
19/20 June	Activist gathering, AGM and 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary party, Sheffield

## Contacts

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